

## **JANUARY 2004 IRP E-NEWS**

*Brought to You by the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP)*

*The IRP mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.*

**Do You Have News to Share?** – In an effort to share information among our many partners, the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) is distributing an electronic newsletter on a monthly basis in addition to the printed quarterly newsletter. If you have items that you would like included please email us at [info@irp.state.id.us](mailto:info@irp.state.id.us).

**IRP Website** – Be sure to bookmark the new and improved IRP web site at [www.irp.idaho.gov](http://www.irp.idaho.gov). Information about the 2003 Idaho Rural Summit, IRP priorities, committees, publications and more are all available on line thanks to a lot of technical assistance from the good folks at the Idaho Department of Administration. Please share the site with friends and colleagues so they can sign up to receive the IRP newsletters or volunteer for a committee.

**IRP Board to Meet** - The next quarterly meeting of the IRP Board of Directors will be held on **Tuesday, February 10** from 7:30 am until 11:30 am. The meeting will be held in the Joe R. Williams Basement Conference Room at 700 West Jefferson Street in Boise. For a detailed agenda or more information email [info@irp.state.id.us](mailto:info@irp.state.id.us).

**Partners for Prosperity Awarded NWAF Grant** - In December, the Northwest Area Foundation (NWAf) marked the end of an 18-month competition by announcing its selection of two communities – one in Montana and one in Idaho – for 10-year partnerships focused on long-term poverty reduction. Partners for Prosperity, which developed a strategic plan for the 16-county regional center of Eastern Idaho, will receive \$11 million during the life of the partnership. Each entry was carefully evaluated against six criteria: Significant focus on poverty reduction, Substantial involvement of diverse interests, Do not harm, Thoughtful and realistic strategies for accomplishing community goals, Development of local abilities to achieve long-term community goals, and Learning and adapting in response to new knowledge and changing circumstances. The competitive process was used in this instance in an effort to provide more communities with an opportunity to develop strategic plans for sustainable change. Partners for Prosperity previously received approximately \$600,000 in planning support from NWAF. Contact Jessica Sotelo, Director, Partners for Prosperity, 208-282-5792.

**LIA Applications Due 1/15/04** - The Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA) program is accepting applications for Class XXIV through **January 15, 2004**. LIA offers concentrated study and hands on experiences that provide enhanced skills for future leaders in agriculture, rural communities, agribusiness and governmental agencies. The program prepares rural leaders through tours, guest speakers, panel discussions and group interaction. Class XXIV will meet for four days each month in April, May, June and July, 2004. IRP is a proud sponsor of LIA and encourages interested individuals to go to [www.leadershipidahoag.org](http://www.leadershipidahoag.org) or call 208/888-0988 for more information, class dates and an application form. Interested individuals that need tuition or travel support may be

eligible for scholarships from IRP and will be considered as part of the normal application process.

**Urban and Rural Interface Focus of Conference** - The 2004 A. Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit is slated for **February 10–11** at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise. This year's theme is "*Urban and Rural Interface – The Challenges Facing Communities in Idaho.*" A great slate of speakers and presenters is scheduled for the event. The first half day will be dedicated to background information about what is happening to land in Idaho and throughout America. The second day will be more "hands-on and how you can be involved". Registration information can be found online at [www.idahoagsummit.org](http://www.idahoagsummit.org) or by calling 208/888-0988. Discounted rates are available if you register before January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Homeland Security in Rural Areas** – The Rural Information Center (RIC) has prepared a Rural Homeland Security Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) located at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/faqs/homelandfaq.htm>. The FAQ focuses on planning, funding, and training resources for local governments. It also links to three other RIC resource pages with additional information for first responders in Emergency Management Services, Fire Departments and Law Enforcement.

**List of Youth Programs** – IRP is compiling a list of youth programs that include a business and/or entrepreneurial component. The list will be used as a resource guide and distributed to interested individuals and posted on the IRP website. If you have a program that you would like included please send a one paragraph description and complete contact information to [info@irp.state.id.us](mailto:info@irp.state.id.us).

**Small Business Information Forum** - This one-day forum provides important and valuable information that will help attendees interested in starting a new business. Several government agencies, both federal and state, will be attending to answer questions such as: What responsibilities come with having employees- When to pay sales tax - How to avoid penalties- Which forms to file and when and where to file the forms- How to get SBA assistance. The cost is only \$10 and pre-registration is required. The 2004 sessions are scheduled for **January 29, May 6, September 9 and November 18** in Boise at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. To register or for more information, visit <http://www2.state.id.us/iic/register.htm>, or phone Lola Barnett at (208) 334-6032.

**Tips & Tricks Available** – The Idaho Department of Commerce is now distributing a weekly bulletin of grant writing and project development tips for government, non-profits, faith based organizations or just anyone interested in preparing successful grant proposals. Weekly topics so far have included project scoping, project descriptions and researching funding sources. If you have a tip to share or would like to join this list please send an email to [jmiller@idoc.state.id.us](mailto:jmiller@idoc.state.id.us).

**Funding for At-Risk Older Adults** - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation invites letters of intent for its Community Partnerships for Older Adults Program, a \$20 million,

multi-year initiative designed to foster the efforts of local public-private partnerships to improve long-term care and supportive services for at-risk older adults. Up to seventeen partnerships will receive development grants of up to \$150,000. These grantees will then have the opportunity to compete for twelve implementation grant awards averaging \$750,000 over four years. **Application deadline for this grant is January 19, 2004.** Details at <http://www.rwjf.org/applying/cfpDetail.jsp?cfpCode=CSL&type=open>

**Look for Idaho Mint Water** – Over the last year, the Idaho Mint Growers Association developed a product to promote the Idaho Mint Industry and enlighten your tastebuds. “*Original Idaho Bottled Mint Water*” was promoted through the Ag Pavilion’s country store at both the Western Idaho and Eastern Idaho State Fairs. Feedback from the general public led us to believe that the Bottled Mint Water was a hit! Paul’s Markets has agreed to put “*Idaho Mint Water*” on the shelf – so look for it on your next shopping trip. Contact Roger Batt, Idaho Mint Growers Association, at 208/888-0988 or [rbatt@spro.net](mailto:rbatt@spro.net).

**ESA Input Needed** - The Endangered Species Act will have its thirty-year anniversary of being signed into law on December 28th. The U.S. House Resources Committee is preparing a committee white paper to mark the occasion. It will examine, in-depth, the success and the failures of the law and what the Resources Committee can do going forward in the 108th Congress and beyond. Committee Chairman Richard Pombo intends to argue that Congress should make the act work better - to not only have better results on species recovery, but also to respect private property rights and the needs of communities especially throughout the west. The Committee expects to have the white paper done by mid-January to release to the general public and the media as we begin to take up the Endangered Species Act in oversight hearings and possible legislative hearings. Interested individuals can direct their input to [brian.kennedy@mail.house.gov](mailto:brian.kennedy@mail.house.gov), or call (202) 226-9019 for more information. Comments can also be faxed to (202) 226-4631 or mailed to 1333 Longworth Washington, D.C. 20515.

**Small Business Resources On Line** – There is a free internet based resource center to assist small business creation and entrepreneurial development across the country. The site was funded by the USDA through a SBIR grant and has been in development for 3 years. It recently expanded to include information about counseling and training opportunities in every state including Idaho. This includes agencies and non-profits who offer free or low cost assistance to small business - SBA, USDA, DOL, Small Business Development Centers and some micro-lenders and development authorities. Details at [www.ItsSimple.biz](http://www.ItsSimple.biz).

**Community Support from the Gannett Foundation** - The Gannett Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that serve the communities in more than forty states (including Idaho) where Gannett Co., Inc., owns a local daily newspaper or TV station. In Idaho, cash grants are awarded three times annually to qualified non-profit organizations through the Gannett Foundation. A committee of employees review requests and recommend contributions to organizations that improve the education, health and advancement of people in their distribution area. Deadlines for applications are **January 15, May 15 and August 15**. Gannett Foundation requests are reviewed

based on several criteria and the completion of an application that are both available on line at <http://www.idahostatesman.com/CustSvc/community-programs.asp>. For more information regarding Gannett Foundation, please contact Heather Harradine, Assistant to the Publisher, The Idaho Statesman, at (208) 377-6300.

**Value Added Ag Grants** - Rural Idaho's economy will get an economic boost with increased jobs and new products being created as the result of federal grants announced by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo and USDA Rural Development. Three Idaho agricultural projects later applied for and were awarded grants totaling \$561,461. "These grants represent the future expansion for our rural economy by creating new products like wind power, sugar beet byproducts for animal feed, and straw products," Crapo said. "By creating this non-traditional income for rural residents, we can better weather the ups and downs of traditional commodity prices that come with free trade." The projects receiving funding include Grant 4-D Farms of Rupert, which received \$450,000 to assist in the marketing of new powdered straw products; Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC, a grower-owned operation, will explore using sugar beet byproducts for animal feed with a \$91,200 grant; and West Slope Farms, Inc., of Burley will use a \$20,250 grant to determine the feasibility of installing on-farm wind turbines. "Value-added agricultural product marketing is a key element in our assistance to rural Idaho," said USDA Rural Development Director for Idaho Mike Field. "These grants result in new products and jobs. We provide the equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in many areas, including home ownership, business development, and technology infrastructure." Nationwide, USDA's Rural Development Value-Added Grant program distributed 184 grants to recipients in 40 states. The total amount distributed was more than \$28.7 million, all for agriculturally-based products. Contact USDA Rural Development for more info at 208/378-5600.

**Ford Fund Opportunities** - The Ford Motor Company Fund supports a variety of nonprofit organizations across the nation that strive to make the world a better place. Support is provided for programs targeting education at all levels, the environment, youth, community development, diversity education, conflict resolution, and touring art and cultural exhibitions. Additionally, the Fund provides support to programs and organizations that address specific needs and enhance the quality of life in company communities throughout the country. Applications are accepted year-round. Details at <http://www.ford.com/en/goodWorks/fundingAndGrants/fordMotorCompanyFund/default.htm>

**More from Ford** - The Ford Foundation is accepting nominations for Leadership for a Changing World, a program that recognizes and supports community leaders not broadly known beyond their immediate community or field. Nominees must be U.S. residents working on domestic social justice issues including but not limited to: economic development, community development, environment, education reform, and youth development. Awardees will receive \$100,000 over two years to support the work for which they are being recognized. In addition, awardees will receive \$15,000 to explore new learning opportunities. Details at <http://leadershipforchange.org/nomination/>

**Joint Ag & Water Quality Conference** – Make plans to attend the Agriculture and Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest and the Idaho Ground Connections Conference on **October 19 – 20** in Boise. This event is combining two professional conferences to provide a forum for agricultural interests, government, and environmentalists to come together in one place to discuss issues relevant to agriculture and water quality. The intent is to present different perspectives in a non-confrontational forum and facilitate understanding so we can work together for new solutions that benefit all. The conference has issued a ‘Call for Presentations and Exhibitors and those requests are due **January 16, 2004**. For more info go to <http://www.agwaterqualitynw.org/>.

***Happy New Year from IRP!***